

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, CVIS, US, UR (RUCHKIN, VIKTOR ANDREYEVICH)

SUBJECT: AEROFLOT ADHERENCE TO TICKETING PROVISIONS OF
U.S./U.S.S.R. CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10149 (B) MOSCOW 7691 (C) STATE 154840
(D) MOSCOW 384 (E) STATE 8953

1. VISA FOR AEROFLOT EMPLOYEE VIKTOR ANDREYEVICH
RUCHKIN WAS AUTHORIZED PER REFTEL C SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF
APPROVED L PETITION.

2. U.S./U.S.S.R. CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT PROVIDES
FOR A REPRESENTATION OF "UP TO A TOTAL OF EIGHT."
AEROFLOT REPRESENTATION IN U.S. NOW NUMBERS EIGHT.
RUCHKIN WOULD BE NINTH EMPLOYEE. HOWEVER, AT EMBASSY
SUGGESTION PER REFTEL D, DEPARTMENT PER REFTEL E LINKED
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INFORMAL PERMISSION FOR NINTH SLOT TO SOVIET COMPLIANCE

WITH TICKETING PROVISIONS FOR CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AND INTERAIRLINE AGREEMENTS. REFTEL A INDICATES AEROFLOT'S PERFORMANCE IN THE AREA OF TICKETING IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN IRRITANTS REMAIN. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED ON ISSUING RUCHKIN VISA TO

REMIND MCA OF PREVIOUS LINKAGE AND TO ASK FOR ASSURANCES THAT PROBLEMS DESCRIBED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL A WILL BE RESOLVED.

3. WITH REGARD TO PROBLEM OF THIRD COUNTRY STUDENTS MENTIONED PARA 2, REFTEL A, TERMS OF CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT REQUIRE SOVIETS TO TICKET PROVIDED THAT STUDENT CAN PRODUCE FARE. QUESTION OF AEROFLOT SALE OF PANAM TICKETS TO STUDENTS WAS ALSO EXPLICITLY RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF PANAM BY INTERAIRLINE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1974. DEPARTMENT CANNOT ACCEPT NEW SOVIET RESTRICTIONS ON TICKET SALES BASED UPON ORIGIN OF FUNDS, WHICH COULD BE EXTENDED TO TRAVEL ON PANAM BY PRACTICALLY ALL SOVIET CITIZENS. IN DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM WITH MCA, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE IS THE MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND SINCE AEROFLOT OUTCARRIES PANAM BY SUCH A LARGE MARGIN ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. INGERSOLL

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